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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or
(Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of national application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last)

under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:
 Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or
 a \$180.00 Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(After the CFR 1.97 (b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)

under 37 CFR 1.97 (d) together with a:
 Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), and
 a \$180.00 processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p).
(Filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee)

Please charge to Deposit Account 50-1078 the sum of \$0.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1078 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449. All the references identified herein were disclosed in Patent Application No. 09/302,922 filed 04/30/1999, now U. S. Patent No. 6,323,043, and, as such, copies thereof are not included pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.98(d), with the exception of US Appln. No. 09/302,899, now USP 6,242,266, a copy of which is enclosed.

A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individual(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO 1449 and is enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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Date: April 8, 2002